

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

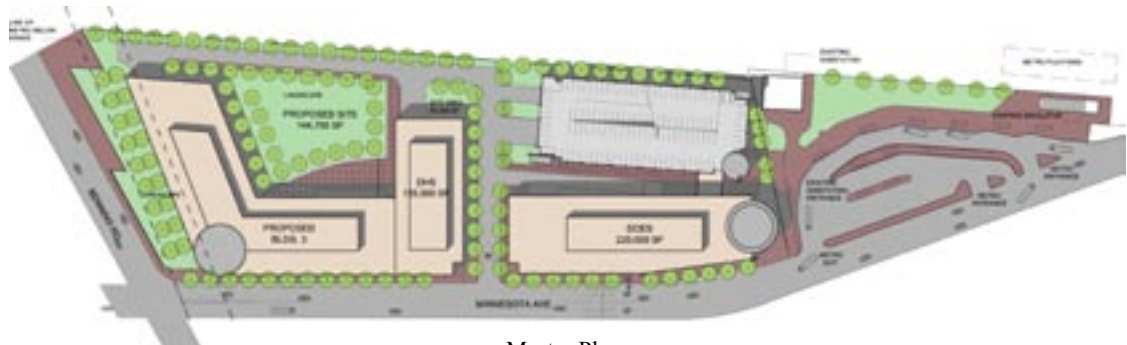
## Minnesota Avenue & Benning Road Government Center Project

The District of Columbia Government is working to spur economic development in communities East of the Anacostia River by relocating District agencies to neighborhood commercial areas. The Minnesota Avenue & Benning Road Government Center is being built to help revitalize “downtown” Ward 7. The Government Center project will include office space for the Department of Employment Services (DOES) and the Department of Human Services (DHS), ground floor retail, and a Metro Station parking garage.

### Master Plan

The Minnesota Avenue & Benning Road Government Center will be located adjacent to the major transit center of the neighborhood; however, initial project plans did not encourage employees to use Metro and did not make it convenient for transit riders to visit retail shops on the ground floor of the new buildings. In order to make this Center more transit oriented, the new facilities are now located closer to Metro. The southern part of the site will be reserved for a future government facility.

This new master plan also recommends improvements to Minnesota Avenue. The plan proposes an additional center-turn lane for vehicular traffic entering the Government Center site, a left-turn lane for traffic turning east onto Benning Road, and a parking lane along the west side of the street.



Master Plan

### Project Details

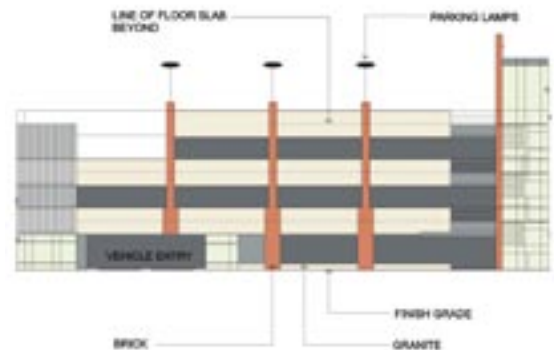
The design schemes for the Government Center facilities will be architecturally compatible with the neighborhood and will enhance the entrance to the community.

The first of the structures to get underway will be the four-story parking garage which will replace the existing surface parking lots. Design of the garage is almost complete and construction is scheduled to begin later this year. A temporary lot will be available during the construction period to replace the spaces currently available.

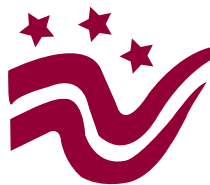
The parking garage will be located adjacent to the Minnesota Avenue Metro Station. The parking garage is an integral part of the new Government Center design and will service Metro passengers who commute from the adjacent station.

The DOES building is currently being designed and will be located next to the parking garage with excellent access to the entrance of the Metro station. DOES will be a five-

story facility housing most of the agency’s core functions and a One-Stop Career Center. It will also have small retail establishments on the ground floor and meeting space that will be available for community use.



Parking Garage - West Elevation



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The DHS headquarters building is sited just south of the DOES building. This will be a four or five-story building. A developer will be selected by the District later this year to design and construct the DHS building.

Both the DOES and DHS buildings are planned for completion in late 2006 or early 2007.

#### City's Management Team

The District of Columbia's Government Centers Project is being led by a new dynamic team with years of accomplishments. They have already met with some members of the community to discuss this exciting and important project but for those of you who have not met them they are:

**Carol Mitten**, the new Director of OPM, comes to the District Government from the appraisal firm Mitten and Reynolds where she was a principal. Ms. Mitten is also Chair of the District of Columbia Zoning Commission.

**Peter May**, the new OPM Deputy Director of Operations, comes to the District Government from the Office of the Architect of the Capitol.

**Joseph Wolfe**, the new Project Manager, comes to OPM from the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development.

#### Government Center Transportation Studies

There are currently two transportation related studies associated with the project, a traffic study and a parking study.

The traffic study is now complete. It examined traffic impacts resulting from the planned Government Center project. The traffic study resulted in five key recommendations:

- ▶ Allow for left turn lane on Minnesota Avenue into the Government Center
- ▶ Install a traffic light at the Government Center entrance
- ▶ Time the traffic signals along Minnesota Avenue
- ▶ Realign the pedestrian crosswalk
- ▶ Provide bicycle parking

The project team evaluated the traffic study recommendations and is incorporating them into the project design of the site in order to ensure a smooth traffic transition with the addition of the Government

Center project. Copies of the traffic study are available upon request.

The parking study will look at what impacts the project will have on existing parking in the community. This study is a result of the interest in parking issues discussed by several community members at meetings on the project. The parking study results and recommendations will be available for comments and shared with community residents.

#### Community Activities

Over the last several months the District has held meetings with a variety of stakeholders about the project, including meetings with property owners currently located on the planned development site, Ward 7 ANC representatives, and civic association leaders. The District plans to hold a Ward-wide community meeting on the project early in the fall.

A DOES representative, Mr. Lewis Brown, Director of the District's Apprenticeship Program, is working with the Counseling Office at H.D. Woodson High School to interest high school seniors in apprenticeship opportunities in the skilled trades. A formal linkage between the DOES Apprenticeship program and Woodson High School will begin next school year. In addition, the Apprenticeship Program and the District's Government Centers' project team will hold an apprenticeship workshop for Ward 7 residents later this fall.

Parsons, the City's project management firm for the project, recently participated in a Friendship Edison Charter School architectural and urban planning competition. Mr. Hunter Hopson, the Senior Manager for Parsons on this project, an architect himself, served as one of the judges in the competition. As a part of the District's team Hunter has become familiar with the community and enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the competition as a judge and especially enjoyed the dialogue with students and teachers after the event.

#### Minnesota Avenue & Benning Road Government Center Project

For more information, or to receive additional copies of this Project Newsletter, please contact:

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